

Training Series Focus

This video series was developed to provide support to consumers moving from an institutional setting to the community.

Target audiences include caregivers, potential employers and landlords, local housing authorities, public transit systems, local businesses, and the consumers themselves.

Another target audience is staff, and a training workbook is available.

The videos are designed in small segments with simple transitions. They can be edited by anyone with access to digital editing software. These edits could reflect ongoing system changes and specific local needs.

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Partners in developing the series were the Jayne English Treatment Center of the Logansport State Hospital and Four County Mental Health Center.

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Providing opportunities for independence through community partnerships and innovative programs.

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Dual Diagnosis Video Training Series

Consumer-Directed Care.

Communities Supporting Their Citizens.

Video #1: Ben's Day

A few years ago, Ben would not have been living in a house in the community. He would not be walking down the street to buy a pop on his way to his job in town. Instead, he would have been living in a large institution.

This is because Ben has both a mental illness and a developmental disability. This combination of challenges is called a dual diagnosis. People with a dual diagnosis are you and me with a couple of extra conditions that significantly impact their lives.

With the challenges that come with a dual diagnosis, moving from a familiar place like an institution can be a big challenge. But Ben can become more independent. With therapy, medication and education, he can shape his own life.

Video #2: Ben's Behavior

Ben is thriving in this new environment, not because he does everything with 100% success, but because he is putting 100% effort into the new opportunities. Each day offers more challenges and opportunities, and with proper support, guidance and intervention, these will be met with positive results leading to increased growth and independence.

There are a few basic approaches to use when working with consumers.

- ◆ Show respect.
- ◆ Make positive approaches.
- ◆ Use an appropriate tone of voice.
- ◆ Redirect inappropriate behavior.
- ◆ Give verbal praise.
- ◆ Be patient.
- ◆ Model appropriate behavior.

Video #3: Ben's Medications

Since Ben has been living in his own apartment, he has been experiencing a variety of new and challenging situations. Dealing with these challenges requires a lot of effort on his part.

The interaction between Ben's medications, medical conditions, psychiatric conditions, mental retardation and learned behaviors can make it difficult for staff to determine the causes of some behaviors.

Some of these behaviors will be covered in Ben's support plan, so it is extremely important that staff members be familiar with the plan.

Medical conditions often mimic psychiatric illnesses or medication reactions. Because Ben cannot verbalize certain problems, both he and staff can be frustrated.

The focus of this series is consumer-directed care.

The video tapes can be given to consumers to take to the important persons in their community: their families, employers, landlords, transportation providers. The tapes are simple and to the point. They can help anyone understand the behaviors, thoughts and feelings of adults with a dual diagnosis of MI and DD. The series is in the public domain and will be made available to other agencies and community resources for use as-is, or as a template for further development.